

SENATE BILL 2773

By Bunch

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to postsecondary
financial assistance from net lottery proceeds.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 9, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-4-9__.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this part to the contrary, a student who is a Tennessee citizen shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship as an entering freshman, if the student meets all eligibility requirements for the scholarship, except that the student does not reside in Tennessee immediately preceding the date of application for financial assistance and the student does not meet the requirements of § 49-4-905(b)(2), because the student's parent relocates out-of-state for more than one (1) year on a work assignment for the parent's employer.

(b) To be eligible under this section, the student shall:

(1) Graduate from a high school in the location where the student's parent is on the work assignment and meet the academic eligibility requirements of:

(A) § 49-4-907(3), if the high school is accredited by a regional accrediting association; or

(B) § 49-4-908(2)(A), if the high school is not accredited by a regional accrediting association; or

(2) Complete high school in a home school in the location where the student's parent is on the work assignment and meet the academic eligibility requirements of § 49-4-908(2)(A).

(c) This section shall only apply to a student who is a dependent child of a parent who:

(1) Relocates out-of-state on a work assignment for the parent's employer for more than one (1) year;

(2) Was a Tennessee resident before relocating; and

(3) Intends to return to Tennessee upon completion of the work assignment.

(d) As used in this section, "dependent child" means a natural or adopted child or stepchild whom the parent who relocates claims as a dependent for federal income tax purposes; provided, however, that the child is under twenty-one (21) years of age, and resides out-of-state only while the parent is required by the parent's employer to be in such location.

SECTION 2. A student may apply for the retroactive award of a Tennessee HOPE scholarship for any semester of the 2007-2008 academic year in which the student would have qualified for a scholarship under this act, had the provisions of this act been in effect during that academic year. The Tennessee student assistance corporation shall award the scholarship retroactively for any semester of the 2007-2008 academic year for which such student meets all applicable requirements for the scholarship.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.